dfr

11/15/71

Dear Mary,

Your letter of the 12 makes me wish you were septuplets! But first of all, do not cash in your Christmas saving. It will not be necessary now and if it turns out otherwise later, there will always be time. Bud said he'd finance this trip and it is his idea that I go to Dallas among other things to see Arch. The only problem, the typical one that has dogged with with almost all "critics" in the past, is that he hasn't come up with the money. He gave me $300, having estimated the total cost at $700, said he'd send me a check for the balance, and hasn't. However, my travel agent is an old friend, so he will trust me for the ticket, which I have already, and I'll have this $300 for the trip. Lil will be churchmousing, but she also, alas, be housebocked, so that presents no immediate new crisis. I can also in effect cite checks by using my charge card. In any event, don't cash in your chips. But the offer is magnificent, and we love you the more for it.

My plans are still xxxxxx uncertain as to date, and Lil has had some sage advice to offer. She says that while I am away to do all I can, stay as long as I can, and I think she is right. I begin in Knoxville and Petros tomorrow. Jerry is to meet me at the airport and I'll be staying with him until I leave, stopping off in Memphis perhaps overnight, perhaps for just the next plane, perhaps not even getting out of the plane. I won't know until I phone from Knoxville. The one to N.O., where what I can do is not within my present knowledge. The things I have planned are few and in narrow areas. My letter to Lyon (cc to JG) remains unanswered, so I haven't even an idea of a fairly secure cheap motel without the kind of ownership I'd prefer to avoid, or where to look for the least costly rental car. My old friends are no longer in N.O. and I can expect nothing but animosity from JG et al until they next need me. Should you want to reach me, it is Jerry's idea that we stay at the Holiday Inn in Harriman, which I take it is closer to Petros than to Knoxville. The room may be in his name. He has some p.r. lined up, radio, TV, newspaper. He should have been my publisher! When a man with the record of a petty crook can do it and a publisher can't, need one say more of the publisher? When I get settled at N.O., if you have no objection, I'll phone you and reverse the charges twice: one when I'm located and once when I know the plans I'm taking to Dallas. I do hope you can meet it, and I welcome what I'd assumed, your hospitality. You great generosity in offering the car, however, is something I do appreciate, as will Bud, who had agreed to the cost of a rental car in N.O. and there. However, aside fromArch, the first thing I'd like to do is go over my plans for working there with you and probably Buck, who I'm looking forward to meeting. I think his good head will be helpful, and my regret is that I'll not be able to consult it before getting to N.O. On the bus, though, I think it likely that we can drive to your office and then I can take the car. But it will be great!

Now I am bringing a single copy of the new last part of PM with me, for you alone. You can copy if at work, I believe. If Arch is up to it, I think that his political prejudices can be overcome by reading the two earlier parts of PM. Even Sue couldn't find fault, I think, with what it says. They do not realize that I am not the captive on any political party and least of all of the eastern intellectual phoney-liberal finks. In any event, don't try and sell him. Let him make up his own mind. I think he'll want to do some things. Bud, for example, wanted to fly right down and pray and talk him into paying for the printing of PM. I discouraged is and my going there is the alternative. I have really moved this all into an entirely new ear, and I think Arch will understand it. But I think in fairness to him and in consideration of the realities, it should be something discussed with him to the degree you consider desireable and the rest left to him.

Anyway, you figure on getting full benefit of grandmotherhood, including in Germany. One thing you might be able to locate for me in Dallas is a special cassette tape. I have been given an excellent Sony TC40 with a built-in alarm that requires a tape to get it off. I think it is called a sensor tape. I'll want Sonys, 120s, for whatever interviews I'll conduct in Dallas where I can tape. I'll be trying in Tenn and N.O. but they are not

available here. I've tried all except one place, and that I'll try when I mail this in the p.m. so it will go out a day faster.

Jill's idea imposes an additional burden on you. She says do what I can when I'm away, make the most of the time and the fare. Unless there is some reason for returning to D.C., I'll use that time in Dallas. You all think of those I might try and see who you have not and what might be expected of them. I have a few plans I'll discuss with you when I'm there. In the past, nobody declined to see me, in D.C. or in Dallas. I mean no single person, and almost all had no reluctance to being taped. Now I was supposed to have gone to a Wisconsin college to make a speech next week but now I can't. I've suggested that they have me the week of 12/5. If that works out, I'll want to stay in Dallas until then and then return via Wisconsin, which will save much time and cost- and give me more than a week there.

Also, this may mean I am inviting myself for Thanksgiving.

Among other things, I'm looking forward to a reunion.

If you can meet me at the airport and save the cab fare, please, when - phone, remember to give me the times you can without taking time off from work. The last time I went I took a supper flight from D.C. That may be best, but I'll have to see how the work goes, when I'm free, etc. I'll want to get out of there as fast as possible, as you'll better understand when we talk.

Again thanks,